# MANAGEMENT PLAN

November, 1996

## for Tranquille Ecological Reserve

BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks**
BC Parks Department

Tranquille
Ecological Reserve

# MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by
BC Parks Kamloops Area Pilot Project Team
for Thompson River District
Kamloops, B.C.

105-04202/

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks

BC Parks
Kamloops, BC

APPROVALS

## Kamloops Area Management Planning Pilot Project
## Binder Approvals Page

### Forward

This binder contains 16 management plans developed under the Kamloops Area Management Planning Pilot Project. This project began in 1994 to develop, implement and evaluate a systems approach to management planning. The project concluded in October, 1996. The management plans contained in this binder provide long-term direction for a group of 10 Class A parks, five ecological reserves and one recreation area. The intention is to review this binder and the plans contained here at regular intervals. Plan vision statements and objectives will not change extensively over time. Management actions, however, will change as priorities, funding and support resources come available.

- ☐ Coldwater River Park
- ☐ Goldpan Park
- ☐ Juniper Beach Park
- ☐ Lac Le Jeune Park
- ☐ Marble Canyon Park
- ☐ McConnell Lake Park
- ☐ McQueen Creek Eco. Res.
- ☐ Monck Park
- ☐ Paul Lake Park
- ☐ Skihist Eco. Res.
- ☐ Skihist Park
- ☐ Skwaha Lake Eco. Res.
- ☑ Soap Lake Eco. Res.
- ☐ Steelhead Park
- ☐ Tranquille Eco. Res.
- ☐ Walloper Lake

**Approved by:**

District Manager
Thompson River District
BC Parks Department

Assistant Deputy Minister
Park Management Committee
BC Parks Department

# Tranquille Ecological Reserve Management Plan

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# Tranquille Ecological Reserve Management Plan

## Introduction

### Goals for Ecological Reserve Management Program in British Columbia

- To maintain ecological reserves that are suitable for scientific studies and educational purposes;
- To provide areas representative of the province's natural ecosystems, as well as areas modified by human beings which offer opportunities to study recovery processes;
- To provide sites where rare and endangered plants and animals are protected within their natural habitats;
- To establish sites where unique and rare biological and geological phenomena are protected; and,
- To provide areas where research and educational opportunities which do not harm or diminish resources are permitted.

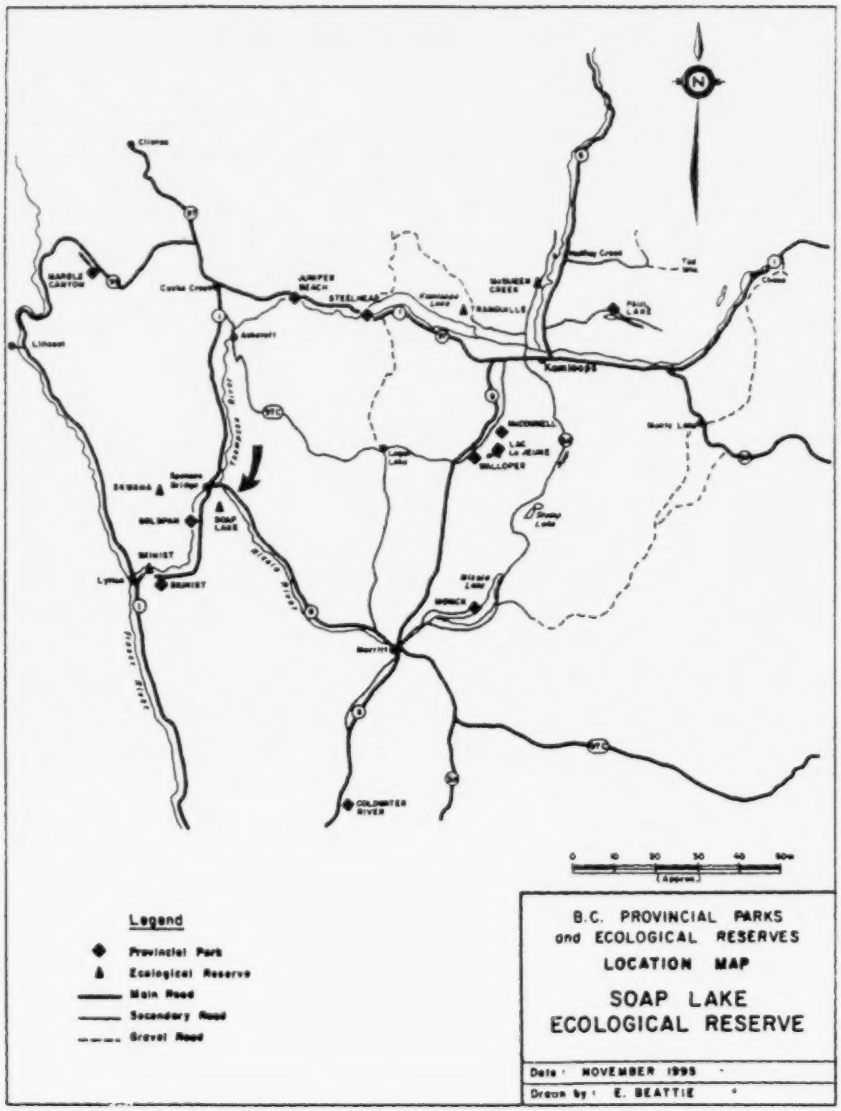
### Purpose of the Management Plan

This management plan states the role of the ecological reserve in the provincial system, the long-term vision for the reserve and the management objectives and actions to achieve this vision. The ecological reserve role and objectives as stated in this plan cannot be contravened in meaning or intent without consultation with the public and approval by the district manager and BC Parks Management Committee (PMC). The five year business plan is subject to annual review and adjustments.

## Background

### Natural Features

- Location: 20 kilometres northwest of Kamloops and north of Kamloops Lake.
- Size: 235 hectares; located between 610 and 1,160 metres.
- Ecological reserve special features: Rare plant species including fairy-candelabra, Weiser's milk-vetch, Dalles milk-vetch, and slender plantain; rattlesnake and bullsnake; and, important spring range for mule deer and winter range for bighorn sheep.
- Ecological reserve representative features: escarpment, bedrock colluvial slope and alluvial fan landforms; sage, Sandberg's blue grass and needle-and-thread grasslands at lower elevations; and, Douglas-fir - ponderosa pine - bluebunch wheatgrass community above 760 metre elevation.


Legend
Provincial Park
Ecological Reserve
Main Road
Secondary Road
Gravel Road
B.C. PROVINCIAL PARKS
and ECOLOGICAL RESERVES
LOCATION MAP
SOAP LAKE
ECOLOGICAL RESERVE
Date : NOVEMBER 1995
Drawn by : E. BEATTIE



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### Administrative History

- Land applied for in 1971 for ecological reserve status. Government designated the reserve by OIC # 3684 and OIC #3992 approved in 1971.
- Mineral claims located in the reserve after designation declared void. Grazing occurred as an illegal use within the reserve after designation. BC Parks fenced the reserve in 1993 for most of its east, south and west perimeter.

### Management Issues

- Recreation use
- Wildfire
- Noxious weeds

### Research and Educational Use

- Education opportunities

### Surrounding Land Use

- Grazing
- Recreation
- Local public road

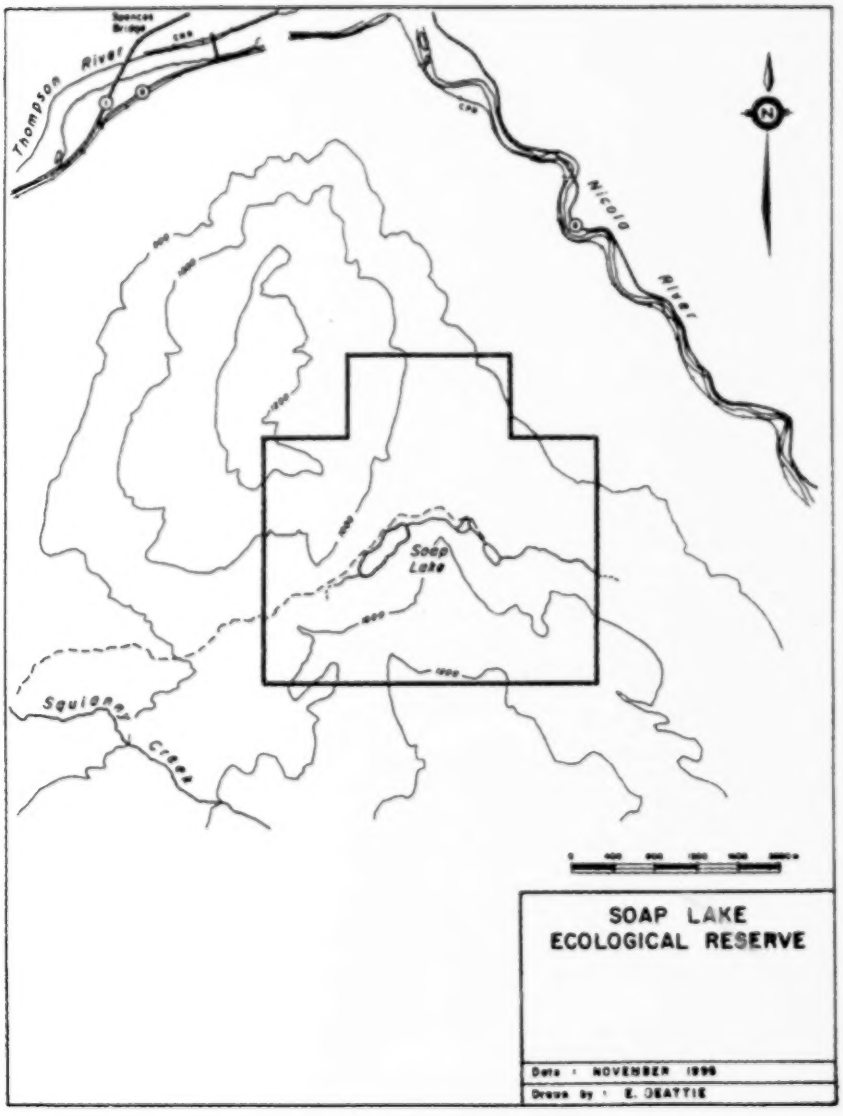
## Role of the Ecological Reserve

### Conservation

- To protect representative ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir ecosystems.
- To protect rare and endangered plant species.

### Research

- To provide a benchmark for ponderosa pine and interior Douglas-fir forests


Thompson River
Spences Bridge
CNR
CPR
Nicola River
Soap Lake
Squilax Creek
SOAP LAKE
ECOLOGICAL RESERVE
Date : NOVEMBER 1990
Drawn by : E. BEATTIE



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## Vision Statement

*The long-term vision for this ecological reserve is to conserve this reserve's natural features. The Lac du Bois Protected Area surrounds the ecological reserve and provides a secure buffer for effective management of the reserve. BC Parks staff continue to manage the reserve through a volunteer warden service. Monitoring for incompatible land use activities inside the reserve continues and public information programs linked to the Lac du Bois protected area are emphasized. BC Parks authorizes compatible research on this benchmark reserve. Management tools, such as prescribed burning, may be used to maintain the special ponderosa pine and grasslands communities.*

## Management Objectives and Actions

### Vegetation Management

Fire has played an important role in defining the ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir ecosystems within this reserve. Thus, BC Parks will assess the appropriateness of using fire as a tool to maintain these ecosystems and prevent fuel build up on the forest floor.

- Objective: To maintain the representative ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir ecosystems.

- Objective: To control and where feasible prevent the establishment of noxious weed species within the reserve. Manual and biological control methods will be preferred to chemical methods.

### Wildlife

- Objective: To protect the important spring range for mule deer and the winter range for bighorn sheep.

### Research and Education

- Objective: To encourage opportunities for non-consumptive and non-destructive research in the reserve.

- Objective: To support educational use of the reserve where this is appropriate.

# Appendix A - Five Year Business Plan

**Tranquille Ecological Reserve**

*Vegetation:*

| | |
|---|---|
| Objective: | To control and where feasible prevent the establishment of noxious weed species within the reserve. |
| Action: | Apply and monitor bio logical control methods. |
| Objective: | To protect rare plant species. |
| Action: | Monitor the ecological reserve for unauthorized activities. |

*Wildlife:*

| | |
|---|---|
| Objective: | To protect important spring range for mule deer and winter range for bighorn sheep. |
| Action: | Monitor the ecological reserve for unauthorized activities. |

*Research and Education:*

| | |
|---|---|
| Objective: | To support education use of the ecological reserve where this is appropriate. |
| Action: | Install an information sign to inform and educate the public about the role of this ecological reserve in the provincial protected areas system and the management objectives to achieve this mission. |